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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04
INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 OIC-02 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12
NEA-10 /157 W
----------050634Z 001623 /20
R 041929Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7059
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS GENEVA 3380

FROM USDEL - DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW, GENEVA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV UNEP
SUBJECT: UNEP GC V (MAY 9-25), ITEM 14, PROBLEM OF MATERIAL
REMNANTS OF WARS

REF: NAIROBI 5375

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED REFTEL AND UNEP/GC/103 ON SUBJECT OF MATERIAL REMNANTS OF WAR. WHILE WE FULLY SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, IT APPEARS THAT UNEP IS NOT AWARE THAT PARTICIPANTS AT THIS CONFERENCE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARDS CONSENSUS ON GENERAL OUTLINES OF POSSIBLE PROVISIONS FOR REGULATION OF MINES AND BOOBY-TRAPS WHICH DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM RECOMMENDATIONS CITED IN REFTEL.

2. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS OF THIS CONFERENCE IS PRESENTLY WORKING ON PROPOSALS FOR MINES AND BOOBY-TRAPS WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR
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RECORDING OF MINEFIELDS, LIMIT USES OF MINES IN POPULATED AREAS, RESTRICT THE USE OF REMOTELY-DELIVERED MINES, AND PROHIBIT CERTAIN TYPES OF BOOBY-TRAPS. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION HERE WOULD GO AS FAR AS CERTAIN OF THE EXDIR'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, EXDIR. RECOMMENDS THAT ALL FUTURE LAND

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MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS, GRENADES AND BOMBS BE FITTED WITH
SELF-DESTRUCTIVE OR NEUTRALIZING MECHANISMS. IN FACT,
THE MOST THAT ANY DELEGATION HERE HAS PROPOSED IS THAT
REMOTELY-DELIVERED MINES (THOSE DELIVERED BY AIRCRAFT,
ARTILLERY, ETC.) BE EQUIPPED WITH SUCH DEVICES, AND
MANY DELS EVEN QUESTION WHETHER THAT SHOULD BE ABSOLUTE
REQUIREMENT. NEUTRALIZING MECHANISMS ON BOMBS AND
GRENADES WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS, SINCE THESE MUNITIONS
ARE ALREADY DESIGNED TO DETONATE ON, OR SHORTLY AFTER,
DELIVERY; FURTHERMORE, OTHER TYPES OF RESTRICTIONS
ON MANUALLY-EMPLACED MINES AND BOOBY-TRAPS, SUCH AS
LIMITATIONS ON THEIR EMPLACEMENT IN POPULATED AREAS,
AND, IN THE CASE OF MINEFIELDS, MARKING OR RECORDING,
CAN BE ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE IN MOST CASES FOR NEUTRALIZING
MECHANISMS. IN ANY EVENT, EXDIR'S RECOMMENDATION
WOULD INVOLVE ESTENSIVE CHANGES IN DESIGN OF FUTURE
MUNITIONS WHICH MOST COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT.

4. THE ABOVE SIMPLY UNDERSCORES FACT THAT UNEP COULD
NOT BE EXPECTED TO HAVE ACCESS TO NECESSARY MILITARY
AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO MAKE SOUND PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS OF
SUCH MUNITIONS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS BEST LEFT
TO BODIES WITH ACCESS TO SUCH EXPERTS, SUCH AS
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THIS CONFERENCE.

5. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING: (A) THAT
IT BE MADE CLEAR THAT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION SPECIFIED
IN PARA 26(A) OF EXDIR REPORT WOULD BE LIMITED, WITH
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RESPECT TO REMNANTS OF PAST WARS, TO INFORMATION
PESENTLY AVAILABLE (SHICH IN MOST CASES WILL NOT MEASURE
UP TO THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARA); (B) THAT
IT BE MADE CLEAR THAT ANY STUDIES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL
EFFECTS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF WEAPONS, AS PROPOSED IN
PARA 26(D), BE CARRIED OUT BY BODIES WITH SPECIAL
KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE CONCERNING REGULATION OF THE
WEAPONS IN QUESTION; (C) THAT PARA 27(I) AND (II) BE
REVISED TO CALL FOR ADHERENCE TO THE PROTOCOLS CONCLUDED
BY THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW IN
ARMED CONFLICT, AND TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
CONVENTION PRODUCED BY THE CCD; AND (D) THAT PARA
27 (III) BE REPLACED BY PARA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
"(APPRPORIATE) POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON VARIOUS TYPES
OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL ADVERS
EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS
FROM THEIR USE, SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED IN APPROPRIATE
INTERNATIONAL FORA. THESE RESTRICTIONS MAY INCLUDE
APPROPRIATE LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF MINES AND BOOBY-

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TRAPS IN POPULATED AREAS, AND SUITABLE REQUIREMENTS

FOR RECORDING, MARKING, OR EQUIPPING OF SUCH MUNITIONS
WITH NEUTRALIZING MECHANISMS."SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
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